

**This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- **BLACK BORDERS**
- **TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- **FADED TEXT**
- **ILLEGIBLE TEXT**
- **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- **COLORED PHOTOS**
- **BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS**
- **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1-17, previously prosecuted in prior applications, have been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, claims 18-20 are at issue in this continuation application.

This preliminary amendment adds no new matter. The specification has been amended to insert a cross-reference to a related application. New claims 18-20 are supported in the specification at page 6, lines 19-30, and page 7, lines 33-35, for example.

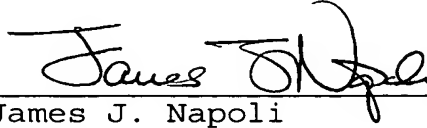
The amendments are described in more detail below. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121, a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the present amendment is attached hereto following the signature page of this amendment. The first page of the marked-up version of the changes is captioned "Version With Markings to show Changes Made."

It is submitted that new claims 18-20 should be entered, and that claims 18-20 are of proper form and scope for allowance. Early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN

By



James J. Napoli
(Registration No. 32,361)
Attorneys for Applicants
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 474-6300

Chicago, Illinois
February 5, 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
(29342/38166, filed February 5, 2002)

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

A cross reference to related applications has been added to page 1, after the title, as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

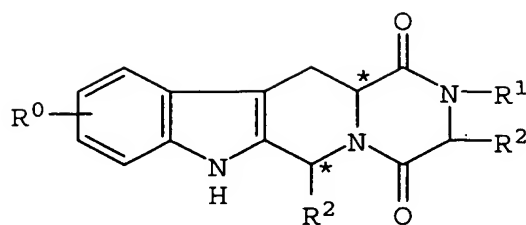
This application is a continuation of co-pending application Serial No. 09/633,431, filed on August 7, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. _____, which is a continuation of copending application Serial No. 09/399,667, filed on September 21, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,127,542, which is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/133,078, filed on August 12, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,025,494, which is a divisional of application Serial No. 08/669,389, filed on July 16, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,859,006.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17, inclusive, have been cancelled without prejudice.

New claims 18-20 have been added as follows:

18. A method of elevating cGMP levels in a human or nonhuman animal body, which comprises administering to said body a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having a formula

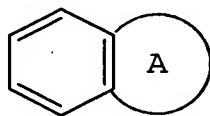


or salts or solvates thereof, in which:

R^0 represents hydrogen, halogen, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^1 represents hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, halo C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl C_{1-3} alkyl, aryl C_{1-3} alkyl, wherein aryl is phenyl or phenyl substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, methylenedioxy, and mixtures thereof, or heteroaryl C_{1-3} alkyl, wherein heteroaryl is thienyl, furyl or pyridyl, each optionally substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, and mixtures thereof;

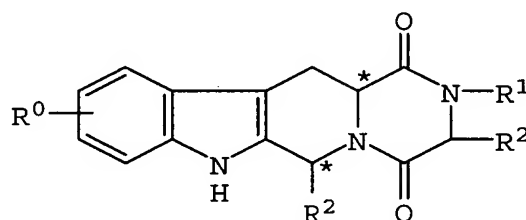
R^2 represents an optionally substituted monocyclic aromatic ring, selected from benzene, thiophene, furan, and pyridine, or an optionally substituted bicyclic ring;



attached to the rest of the molecule via one of the benzene ring carbon atoms and wherein the fused ring A is a 5- or 6-membered ring which may be saturated or partially or fully unsaturated and comprises carbon atoms and optionally one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen; and

R^3 represents hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, or R^1 or R^3 together represent a 3- or 4-membered alkyl or alkenyl chain component of a 5- or 6-membered ring.

19. A method of potentiating an effect of endothelium-derived relaxing factor, a nitrovasodilator, atrial natriuretic factor, brain natriuretic peptide, a C-type natriuretic peptide, or an endothelium-dependent relaxing agent in a human or nonhuman animal body, which comprises administering to said body a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having a formula



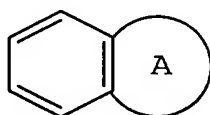
or salts or solvates thereof, in which:

R^0 represents hydrogen, halogen, or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^1 represents hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, $haloC_{1-6}$ alkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl C_{1-3} alkyl, aryl C_{1-3} alkyl, wherein aryl is phenyl or phenyl substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of

halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, methylenedioxy, and mixtures thereof, or heteroarylC₁₋₃alkyl, wherein heteroaryl is thienyl, furyl or pyridyl, each optionally substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, and mixtures thereof;

R² represents an optionally substituted monocyclic aromatic ring, selected from benzene, thiophene, furan, and pyridine, or an optionally substituted bicyclic ring;



attached to the rest of the molecule via one of the benzene ring carbon atoms and wherein the fused ring A is a 5- or 6-membered ring which may be saturated or partially or fully unsaturated and comprises carbon atoms and optionally one or two heteroatoms selected from oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen; and

R³ represents hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl, or R¹ or R³ together represent a 3- or 4-membered alkyl or alkenyl chain component of a 5- or 6-membered ring.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the endothelium-dependent relaxing agent is bradykinin, acetylcholine, or 5-HT.